

S E C O N D

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Permanent Committee

ON

EDUCATION FOR THE MINISTRY:

PRESENTED TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,

AT CHICAGO, ILL., MAY 24, 1858.

New-York:

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1858.

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SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Permanent Committee on Education for the Ministry.



THE past year has been one of severe trial to all the great benevolent enterprises of the day, and that under the charge of the Committee has shared largely in it; but still much has been accomplished, and there is decided encouragement for the future.

Operations of the Committee.

The Committee was established by the General Assembly of 1856, but was not prepared for active work till the first of March, 1857, a little more than two months previous to the meeting of the last Assembly. They found the cause of Education for the Ministry, throughout our Church, in a very confused and depressed condition. The interest which placed it foremost among the benevolent enterprises of the Church, twenty-five years ago, had sadly declined; the Societies having the work in charge were limited in their operations, and low in favor of the churches; and in many minds the question had been started, whether the mode of operation pursued by them was calculated to produce a ministry, either as to numbers or qualifications, adequate to the wants of the Church. Most of our churches were inactive; a small number were acting by themselves; some were united in Presbyterial or Synodical arrangements; and some were coöperating with voluntary societies; but there was no general, systematic plan of operation. The work assigned to the Committee, as will be seen by the act of the Assembly establishing it, was not that of an ordinary Education Society, to seek out and aid indigent young men; but it was the far more broad and important one of striving to awaken, throughout the whole Church, a true evangelical interest in behalf of the increase of the Ministry, and preparing a plan of operation which would be in accordance with the genius of our polity; which, as far as possible, would be systematically self-working; which would excite and combine the energies of every part, and afford a medium of coöperation, by which the weak might avail themselves of the assistance of the strong. Their duty was not to undertake the work of education for the Church, but to arouse and encourage the Church through her normal modes of action to undertake it herself; and they are required to report what they have attempted, and what the churches, with or without their influence, have accomplished.

The Committee could do but little more at the last Assembly than present their general plan. With singular unanimity, after thorough examination and discussion, it was approved by that body, and warmly recommended to the Presbyteries and churches. The first business of the past year was to publish that plan, according to the direction of the General Assembly. Five thousand copies of the First Annual Report, with the action of the Assembly regarding it, and such other matter as was needed to introduce the subject to favorable notice, have been distributed; it is hoped that the seed thus sown will prove abundantly fruitful.

Following this, the General Secretary commenced a course of visitation to the different ecclesiastical bodies, and by the close of October had traveled nearly 7000 miles, and laid the subject before the Synods of New-York and New-Jersey, Albany, Onondaga, Geneva, Genesee, Western Pennsylvania, Western Reserve, Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, and Missouri, together with several Presbyteries. He was every where favorably received, and large assurances of approbation and co-operation were given. At this point his labors were interrupted by the unparalleled commercial embarrassment which over-spread the country; the effects of which were so universal and severe, as seriously to embarrass all efforts to introduce a new system, and to create a necessity for every effort to sustain such educational enterprises as were already in existence, so that those who had commenced studies with reference to the ministry, might not be discouraged and relinquish them. The Secretary has devoted the remainder of the year to visiting various churches, to the use of the press, and to correspondence in furtherance of the general object. He has now, with returning commercial prosperity, and, what is infinitely more advantageous, a general revived religious interest in the churches, resumed his general labors, and is endeavoring to build on the foundation which has been laid. The Committee would bespeak in his behalf the ready co-operation of the churches. His peculiar work is not that of an agent, mainly to collect funds and relieve ministers and churches of their privileges and responsibilities with regard to the matter, but that of a representative of the Assembly, to do what he can to awaken, guide, and assist them in fulfilling their own untransferable and weighty obligations.

F u n d s .

Up to the period when our general operations were interrupted, the Secretary had been engaged in preparatory work, and neither time nor opportunity had been afforded him, except in an incidental way, to make collections. The churches mostly also to which he gained access, had pledged their educational contributions to other channels than the Treasury of this Committee.

Owing to these facts, the receipts have been only such as individuals and churches have voluntarily forwarded; and from Aug. 27, 1856, to the present time, have been as follows:

Churches.—In Pennsylvania: 1st Church, Kensington, Phila., \$35; Wayne, \$2.36; Brooklyn, \$13; Wattsburg, \$10; Waterford, \$5; East Mill Creek, \$5; Pittsburgh, \$135; Erie, \$50; North East, \$12; Harbor Creek, \$10. In New-York: Western Church, New-York City, \$103.75; Watertown, \$85; Champlain, \$32.83; Southold, L. I., \$20; Union, Brown Co., \$8.35; Beekmantown, \$10; Hunter, Greene Co., \$2. In

Michigan: Jonesville, \$11.25; Kalamazoo, \$60.68; Allegan, \$6; Lansing, \$6.24. In New-Jersey: Rockaway, \$27.50; Hanover, \$25. Ohio: Maumee, \$12.92; Toledo, \$72.34; Dover, \$4.60. Indiana: Lima and Fairfield, \$15.

From Individuals.—Rev. R. Armstrong, Mich., \$5; Rev. E. Whitaker, Southold, L. I., \$5; Mrs. Jane Aiken, Dover, N. H., \$5; Elisha Taylor, Cleveland, O., \$50; Dr. Peter Allen, Kinsman, O., \$2; W. N. Jackson, Indianapolis, \$25; Dr. Owen, \$5; D. Yandes, Indianapolis, two 7 per cent R.R. bonds, of \$500 each. The whole amount thus received has been \$947.82.

The expenses of the Committee to the present time, for office-rent, printing, postage, and traveling expenses of the Secretary, have been \$912.25. The salary of the latter has been thus far provided by the personal contributions and responsibility of some of the members of the Committee.

The Committee, in a special manner, called the attention of the churches to the recommendation of the last Assembly, that the subject of the increase of the ministry should be presented, and a collection taken on the Sabbath preceding or succeeding the Annual Concert of Prayer for Colleges. We have reason to believe, that this recommendation was complied with to but a very limited extent. We ask, that it may be repeated, if possible, in a manner which will render it more impressive; for it is derogatory to the Assembly to have its recommendations of objects of admitted importance constantly disregarded; and it is highly injurious to the churches to pursue such a course. We deem it of great consequence that three things should be remembered concerning this part of the subject. 1. Every church, however feeble, should contribute regularly for this object. A moderate sum from each will create a sufficient amount to supply all our wants. 2. As far as possible these collections should be simultaneous. If, throughout the Church, the same day or days were devoted to Education, the effect could not but be quickening and strengthening. 3. Presbyteries and churches should not limit their contributions to what will meet their own wants; but should give in view of the intrinsic importance of the cause, and remit what they do not use for their own young men, to the Assembly's Committee. The expenses incurred by the Committee in carrying on the work over a region extending from New-York to the Falls of St. Anthony, must necessarily be very considerable; and the applications for aid from Presbyteries, whose churches are feeble, are such that a constant and liberal supply of funds is necessary to answer them favorably.

It is not the purpose of the Committee to employ collecting agents. The churches appear to be averse to them, a large percentage of their collections must be consumed in their expenses, and a more economical and excellent way is for pastors and churches to do this work themselves. Liberality in the use of property, is a Christian grace; and ministers are unfaithful who do not labor to develop it; and Christians are so, who do not practice it.

The experiment made with reference to collections by the Synods of Ohio, Cincinnati, Indiana, and Wabash, is most encouraging. They have acted unitedly *without agents*, for two years; in the first of which they raised \$1891, at an expense of \$28.50; and in the second, \$2263, at an expense of only \$17.22. But the diminished expense is the smallest part

of the advantage, for the interest of both the pastors and churches has been developed in a manner in which it could not have been done by agents.

Beneficiaries.

The Committee have had no means with which to assist beneficiaries, and, of course, have made no engagements to do so. In some cases it was painful to decline applications, for they came from Presbyteries whose churches were really unable to make large benefactions. In other cases it produced a happy result to do so, for it led Presbyteries to put forth successful exertions to take care of their own young men. It is so much easier to ask assistance from abroad than to do all that should and may be done at home with activity and self-sacrifice, that the temptation becomes strong to do so. The Committee are not anxious to have a long array of beneficiaries dependent on their Treasury and directly responsible to them. They feel that the finding of them, the provision for them, and the pastoral supervision over them, can be far better performed by the Presbyteries. They desire to make the increase of the ministry a home-work in the Presbyteries and churches, instead of drawing it to a distant center, and hope for the day when they can report hundreds of candidates for the ministry, watched over and provided for by their immediate kindred in the flesh and in the Lord. In the mean time they will appeal strongly to the wealthier Presbyteries and churches, to place in their hands the means of assisting those who are really needy, and will dispense what is received, according to the plan adopted last year. If any should question the wisdom and success of this general course, we have only to reply, that it is eminently Evangelical and Presbyterian, and must ultimately, though perhaps slowly, be adopted, if we are to have a system of permanent value. The history of educational efforts, for the last thirty years, has demonstrated the inadequacy of other modes of action. Had this plan been adopted from the beginning, and faithfully carried out, our Church could not have been in such want of ministers as she is at present.

Act of Incorporation.

As directed by the last Assembly, the Committee have procured from the Legislature of the State of New-York, an Act of Incorporation, which they herewith submit for the approval of this Assembly. This act enables the Committee to hold property to the amount of two hundred thousand dollars, for any educational work the Assembly may at any time undertake. The Committee would particularly call the attention of those to whom God has given property, and who are inclined to use it for him, to this facility, which our Church now possesses, for holding and managing benefactions, or bequests, for purposes of education. It is essential to a successful prosecution of our work, that there should be a sufficient amount of permanent funds at the control of the Committee to meet by their income the varying exigencies which may occur, while the main dependence should ever be on the annual contributions of the churches. The Committee also do not hesitate to say, that the mode of investing funds, to promote ministerial education, directly in the charge of the General Assembly, is preferable to all others. Scholarships and professorships are both liable to be alienated or perverted, or to be rendered inefficient, or be lost by the changes and failures that occur in insti-

tutions, while funds, placed in charge of the Assembly, can be as safely invested as by any other body, and their proceeds can be directed to any point throughout the entire Church, where they are most needed. There are educational funds in some parts of the Church unused for the purposes for which they were given, because they are bound to particular institutions, where it does not suit students to go, or where the advantages are not inviting.

Expiration of Term of Office.

The term of office of George L. Prentiss, John Jenkins, Wm. A. Booth, Harvey Curtis, and Wm. Darling, members of the Committee, expires with this meeting of the General Assembly. It is also the painful duty of the Committee to inform the General Assembly of the death of Anson G. Phelps, whose term would have expired next year. Mr. Phelps was a warm, constant, liberal, faithful friend of the Education cause, and his loss can not but be long and deeply felt.

Memorial from Iowa City Presbytery.

The last Assembly referred to the Permanent Committee a "Memorial from the Presbytery of Iowa City, on the subject of Christian Education," asking the General Assembly, through its Permanent Committee, to aid in erecting Academies and Collegiate Institutions, with instructions "to consider and extend, and at their discretion, during the year," and to report to the Assembly.

The Committee have to state, that no funds have been placed in their hands for such an object; that it would have been foreign to the design of their appointment to have attempted to collect any; and that, while they are ready to fulfill the wishes of the Assembly in any thing that pertains to education, they would suggest, that it would greatly embarrass their peculiar and more spiritual work, by connecting it in its infancy, with another of a secular character, having but a remote connection with it.

What the Churches have done.

Early in January, a circular was issued, calling on the Presbyteries to report what had been done throughout their churches on this subject. The Presbyteries, which responded to this call, were those of Angelica, Buffalo, Cayuga, Champlain, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Geneva, Genesee, Ithaca, Long Island, New-York, 4th, North River, Onondaga, St. Lawrence, Tioga, Troy, Utica, and Watertown, in the State of New-York; Newark and Rockaway, in New-Jersey; Philadelphia, 3d, Philadelphia, 4th, and Erie, in Pennsylvania; Cleveland, Elyria, Franklin, Grand River, Hamilton, Huron, Maumee, Pataskala, Portage, Scioto, Trumbull, in Ohio; Crawfordsville, Fort Wayne, Greencastle, Indianapolis, Madison, St. Josephs, in Indiana; Detroit, Kalamazoo, Marshall, Monroe, Saginaw, and Washtenaw, in Michigan; Alton, Belvidere, Chicago, and Ottawa, in Illinois; Cedar Valley, Dubuque, Iowa City, in Iowa; Blue Earth, in Minnesota; and Columbus, in Wisconsin: fifty-seven in all, leaving forty-one, from which no answer has been received. These reports are too vague and indefinite to be presented in a tabular form, and they afford but little detailed information. They show, however, that an increasing number of Presbyteries have entered into this work according

to the plan of the Assembly, with gratifying encouragement, and that others are preparing to do so; and they indicate a decidedly awakened interest in particular places. As to the number of churches to which the subject has been presented, and the amount which has been contributed, the replies afford but little information. The number of candidates for the ministry, and the wants of the vacant churches, remain about as they were last year. The results of the year's labor consist in a large measure in preparatory work; and the facts developed show that the field assigned us by providence, is in a very promising condition.

The Committee desire from year to year to present a full tabular statement, showing what has been done in the bounds of the whole Church, and they solicit the Assembly to use what influence it can, to lead the Presbyteries to render their reports fully and promptly; unless this can be secured, it will be impossible for the Assembly to ascertain the condition of the churches, and to adopt wise and efficient measures to carry on prosperously this great work.

Synodical Action.

The Synods of Ohio, Cincinnati, Indiana, and Wabash, have conducted their united arrangement another year, with augmented success. There was an increase of about 25 per cent in their collections, with a corresponding decrease in their expenses. Twenty-six young men received assistance from their Treasury. The Annual Report of their Executive Committee contains much that is worthy the deepest attention of the churches, and we can not refrain from copying some portions of it, as illustrating the principles on which the Committee are striving to conduct this work, as an example and excitement to others. They state their fundamental principle as follows:

"At the outset we assumed that the obtaining of men, and the means to support them, must proceed together, and that even if the pecuniary aid necessary to support our young men, could be wholly obtained from the East, it would be a real injury to us, rather than a help, to accept it. Accordingly we took the ground that the point to be aimed at is the raising of the means of support for our young men from among ourselves, rather than receiving it in whole or in part from abroad. The result, although the plan has only in part been carried out, demonstrates the wisdom of the effort: we are now able to report what we never could before, that during the past year, the entire number of theological students connected with us, and pursuing their studies within our bounds, who needed aid, has been supported by the contributions of our own churches."

As to the duty of churches, this Committee say: "A Church of Christ has something more to do than enjoy the preached word. It is bound by gratitude to Christ, and by his express command, to send the glad tidings according to its ability to others, not only by contributing its property, but also its sons and daughters. This duty which rests upon every church, has not been sufficiently felt. One of our strongest churches, although in the words of its pastor, it 'has used up several ministers in its forty years' existence,' has never furnished a single one from its families. From all the churches in one of our Presbyteries, but two ministers have been raised up. On the other hand, there are other churches which have re-

membered their obligations, which are now engaged in preaching the Gospel by their sons and members in our own land, and among the heathen. It has for a long time been tacitly assumed, that the smaller churches, which constitute a large portion of most of our Presbyteries, are to take no part in this movement. This is a great mistake. As the men of energy and influence in every department of life, notoriously spring from the country-towns and villages, and not from the cities, so we are to look for the young men, to supply the ranks of the Christian ministry, not so much from cities and large towns, as from the small country churches. If they can not give us the money, they can often furnish the men. Facts confirm this. The only two ministers furnished by the whole Presbytery, already referred to, came from one of its feeble churches. The coöperation of our small churches must be made of much account, and every effort put forth to secure it. At this point it is that we must specially ask the coöperation of the elders. Let the elders of feeble churches take the right ground, and resolve that a collection shall be yearly taken and forwarded, even though it may not amount to more than fifty cents, and the good seed will certainly be sown, which in time will grow into a plentiful harvest."

We have space for but a single extract more, giving the answer of a minister to the inquiry what course he was accustomed to adopt in raising collections for this object. He writes: "*First of all*, I get my own heart thoroughly impressed with the importance of it. I suffer the matter to press with a mighty weight on my soul. I prepare the best sermon I possibly can on that theme. I do not beg in this great cause at the tail of an ordinary discourse as a sort of appendix, and a poor one at that, but I preach upon it with whatever of intellectual vigor and emotion God may have endowed me." With these and kindred views prevailing in the ministry and the churches, there can not but be a decided advance in the work.

It is a special object with these Synods to have the subject presented in every church; and at their meetings last fall the rolls were called, pledges were given on the part of ministers and elders that this year it should be done. Would that their zeal might provoke many to do likewise.

Education Societies operating in our Churches.

THE CENTRAL EDUCATION SOCIETY, at New-York, has aided one hundred and eleven young men in twelve different institutions. The amount of funds it received and disbursed has not been reported. As it will cease hereafter to operate in our churches, they will be left free to act Presbyterially as recommended by the Assembly.

THE PHILADELPHIA EDUCATION SOCIETY, exclusive of the Synodical Committee at Cincinnati, which is only a nominal auxiliary, has aided forty-one young men in nine institutions, and collected and disbursed about \$3500. Their report says: "The changes wrought in the ecclesiastical organization composing chiefly the field of our operation, must of necessity affect in some degree the future working prosperity and advancement of this Society. To what extent it may suffer detriment must be left to time and observation to determine."

THE WESTERN EDUCATION SOCIETY located at Auburn, N. Y., and including in its field the Synods of Utica, Geneva, Genesee, Onondaga, and

Susquehanna, is operating in connection with the Committee, and is also an auxiliary of the American Education Society. It aided the past year 68 young men, 43 in the Theological Seminary, 13 in Hamilton College, and 2 in Academies. Its total receipts were:

Collections in the Churches,	\$3,487	62	
" from Individuals,	1,950	00	
Goodell Legacy, through the Am. Ed. Soc.,	1,200	00	

		\$6,637	62

Its expenses for agency, etc., were \$1308.98, and the amount paid to beneficiaries was \$5328.78. These sums are exclusive of what was done by the Presbytery of Buffalo, and the Synod of Susquehanna, which, though included in its field, are now acting separately from the Society. In the hour of deepest commercial embarrassment ten families in the city of Auburn invited students of the Seminary to their tables; a similar number at Hamilton College did likewise. This timely liberality enabled some to pursue their studies who otherwise would have been compelled to have relinquished them. The year has been one of greater interest in at least three out of every four of the churches. Notwithstanding the hard times, there has been an increase of collections over the previous year. There has also been an increase of prayer for the cause. There are now more young men on this field than are funds to aid; and it is confidently expected that the late revival will largely increase the number.

Conclusion.

The Committee can not close their Report without an earnest appeal to the whole Church to come up to this work with a zeal commensurate with its importance. They do not ask of the General Assembly any further ecclesiastical action. The plan already adopted is so simple, complete, and well conformed to our polity; and combines to such an extent liberty in individual, congregational, and, presbyterial action with union and coöperation on the part of the whole body, that for the present, at least, nothing more is needed. But if the General Assembly can use any possible means of instruction, exhortation, or admonition, which will arouse and engage attention more seriously with reference to it, we would implore them to do so.

We would urge the Synods, and especially the Presbyteries, to put their hands to this plough, and not look back. The latter are the best and truest education societies in our Church, and they can not be engaged in more appropriate or important work. We ask that their coöperation may be in giving as well as receiving, and that it may be practical and reliable. Mere commendatory resolutions excite expectations but to disappoint them. The cause we are striving to advance is intrinsically respectable enough to live without being patronized; but is too poor to get along without substantial help.

We would make a most earnest appeal to ministers. The Gospel reaches the churches mainly through them. If they cherish no becoming interest in perpetuating and increasing the ministry, so as to make it an object of their prayers, instructions, and frequent special labors, they are deficient in a most important part of their trust. They can help or hinder in this work, as no other men possibly can, and we beseech them to be zealous and faithful.

We would ask the attention of parents to this subject. In our Church the ministry has in very large measure grown out of the appreciation and fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant, and on it must be our reliance for the future. Consistent Christian families are the best nurseries for a race of godly ministers.

We would present the call of Christ to the numbers of young men who in the present revival have professed his name; and would ask them, if qualified to engage in this service, whether in any other position they can expect so much of Christ's favor in this world, and so much of his glory hereafter, as in the work of declaring to lost men his infinite worth and grace?

The Church is as certainly bound to spread the Gospel as to receive it. She has no right to rejoice in its blessings, unless she diffuses them abroad. She is evangelical only so far as she is evangelistic. She needs to increase the ministry, not alone, to maintain a few favorable positions which can afford a fair support, and keep her numbers good, but to evangelize the world. The number of Foreign Missionaries representing our large and extended body in heathen lands, is a little more than fifty. Can we be satisfied with so small a number?

Our country itself is a vast missionary field, and were we ready with the right spirit, with the men and the means, we might add to our roll a new Church almost daily in the coming year, and yet not interfere seriously with any other evangelical body. Our foreign population, too, is increasing, other large bodies are active to promote its spiritual welfare, and we can not be indifferent without guilt.

Our Church itself is a missionary field. According to the statistics of last year, (and we are sure those of the present can not vary materially,) we have (excluding the Southern Secession) 1395 churches. Many of these enjoy the services of a minister but one half, one third, or one fourth of the time, and after these are counted as supplied, 376 (more than one fourth) are vacant. Of the whole number, 80 contain not more than 12 members; 211 have over 12, and not more than twenty-five; and 376 have over 25, and not more than 60. Making 667 churches, or very nearly one half of the whole, which have not over 60 members. Some of these are young and promising, and will grow; others are old and decaying, and if not resuscitated will soon be extinct. A due regard for the interest of our body, as a part of the kingdom of Christ, requires an increase in the right kind of ministers. We can not strengthen the things that are ready to die, and attempt new things, without them.

A strong argument for increased exertion may be derived from the geographical location of our churches. On examination it will be seen that our numerical strength is concentrated over a comparatively small region; about two thirds of our communicants, and one half of our ministers, being found in New-York, and in the eastern portions of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, while in the vast North-west which invites our efforts we are feeble and scattered. Into the latter, population is rushing by thousands every day, and through the influence of the great network of railroads which covers it, new centers of business are constantly springing up, where the Gospel must soon be planted by us or they will pass away from us forever. This is preëminently our place for aggression upon the kingdom of Satan, and for laying the foundations of many generations in truth and

righteousness. Its votes, more than those of any other portion, will control the political destiny of our republic, and its moral character will contaminate or bless the whole. We should extend the favorable hold we have on it, but are unable to do so without a greater number of able and faithful ministers.

With these statements and appeals we go forth again to the churches, striving to rouse them to exertion in this noble work. We would go under the conviction that "except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it," and with the confidence that if we are "sternfast, unmovable, and always abounding in the work of the Lord," we shall prove that our labor is not in vain.

**Action of the General Assembly upon the foregoing Report,
May 31, 1858.**

Resolved, That this Assembly find, in the practical workings of the plan for ministerial education inaugurated by the last General Assembly, reason to regard it with increasing confidence, and consider it eminently wise, and admirably adapted to develop the zeal and activity of the whole Church in this department of her duty.

Resolved, That in laying the foundation for this work in a living Christianity of the body, and devolving the execution of it on individual churches and Presbyteries, the Assembly has proposed the most evangelical and effective method of accomplishing the enterprise.

Resolved, That while the responsibility of performing this part of her mission rests on Christian parents, and the individual members and elders of the Church, it also presses with peculiar weight on ministers; and from a becoming spirit and example in their daily labor and a faithful and frequent presentation to Christian parents and youth of their obligations of covenantal consecration, the happiest results may be reasonably expected.

Resolved, That it is deeply to be lamented that the Saviour's command, "Pray ye the Lord of the harvest that he would send forth laborers into his harvest," has so extensively passed from the minds and hearts of his people, and that this Assembly admonish all its ministers and churches of this neglect, and earnestly exhort them to give attention to it in their private, domestic, social, and public devotions, and that they especially remember it at the monthly concert as well as at the annual concert of prayer for educational institutions on the last Thursday of February.

Resolved, That inasmuch as a large number of Presbyteries have disregarded the urgent recommendation of the last Assembly to forward full reports of their action in reference to ministerial education, this Assembly readopts that recommendation, considering a faithful compliance with it essential to a successful enlistment of the whole Church in this important enterprise.

Resolved, That it is highly desirable that the subject of the increase of the ministry should be annually presented to the churches on the Sabbath preceding or succeeding the annual concert of prayer for colleges, and that contributions be made on one of the Sabbaths above named, when it will not interfere or disturb systematic arrangements already adopted.

Resolved, That it is the conviction of this Assembly that a large and useful increase of the ministry can not be secured without constant vigilance on the part of the Presbyteries in the introduction of men into the sacred office, in arrangements to direct their efforts and facilitate their settlement, and in holding

them to a just responsibility in the discharge of their work, and also without a disposition on the part of the churches to furnish it with an adequate and equitable support.

Resolved, That the Assembly recommend as a general principle that candidates for the ministry, especially those who are connected with churches under the care of our newer and smaller Presbyteries, retain their church and Presbyterian relations unchanged during the progress of their studies.

Resolved, That the Permanent Committee be directed to publish this annual report, or such portions of it as they may deem advisable.

Act of Incorporation.

An Act to incorporate the Permanent Committee on Education for the Ministry, of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The People of the State of New-York, as represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows :

SECTION 1. John J. Owen, Asa D. Smith, George L. Prentiss, William A. Booth, Joseph B. Sheffield, Jesse W. Benedict, Walter S. Griffith, Anson G. Phelps, William Hogarth, Jonathan F. Stearns, Henry Smith, Harvey Curtis, John Jenkins, William Darling, and William Jessup, (designated for the purpose by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, which met in Cleveland, Ohio, in May, eighteen hundred and fifty-seven,) and their successors in office, are hereby constituted a body corporate and politic, by the name of "The Permanent Committee on Education for the Ministry of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America," whose duty it shall be to superintend the whole cause of education in behalf of the said General Assembly, as said General Assembly may from time to time direct ; also to receive, take charge of, and disburse any property or funds which at any time and from time to time may be intrusted to said General Assembly, or said Permanent Committee for educational purposes.

§ 2. The said corporation shall possess the general powers, and be subject to the provisions contained in title three, of chapter eighteen of the first part of the Revised Statutes, so far as the same are applicable and have not been repealed or modified.

§ 3. The management and disposition of the affairs and funds of said corporation shall be vested in the individuals named in the first section of this act, and their successors in office, who shall remain in office for such period, and be displaced and succeeded by others, to be elected at such time and in such manner as the said General Assembly shall direct and appoint.

§ 4. The said corporation shall in law be capable of taking, receiving, and holding any real or personal estate which has been or may hereafter be given, devised, or bequeathed to it, or to said General Assembly, for the purposes aforesaid, or which may accrue from the use of the same ; but the said corporation shall not take and hold real and personal estate above the sum of two hundred thousand dollars.

§ 5. This act shall take effect immediately.

Passed April 17, 1858.

APPROVAL BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

Resolved, That the Assembly approve of the act of incorporation obtained by the Permanent Committee of Education, from the Legislature of New-York, and of its acceptance by that Committee, and that said Committee thus incorporated, is hereby cordially and confidently recommended to such persons as may be disposed to devote property to ministerial education, as a safe and responsible agency for its investment and disbursement.

Our Relations to the American Education Society.

The views of that Society are exhibited in the following extract from its Forty-second Annual Report, presented on the 25th day of May, 1858. In publishing them, the General Secretary would say, on his own responsibility, (for he has not been able to lay them before the Permanent Committee,) that he believes the Presbyteria Church will most cordially reciprocate all the expressions of fraternal interest they contain, while it concurs in the judgment expressed, which he has emphasized by printing in *italics*. This matter seems now to be kindly and fairly arranged and understood. Our Church is a field to be cultivated by its own agencies. These she possesses in her very constitution. They are the Christian family, the local congregation, the session, the Presbytery, the Synod, the General Assembly. Blessed as she is with favoring providences and gracious influences, she has only to enter heartily into the work and glorious success will crown her labors.

The report says: "Twenty-five years ago the American Education Society was in truth a *union* of the Presbyterian and Congregational churches throughout the land, for the prosecution of the great work of raising up men for the ministry. The Society made its presence felt in every part of the country, because the churches united in the enterprise were scattered every where. But subsequent events have materially modified all this. First came the great division in the Presbyterian Church, separating what is known as the Old School Presbyterian Church from us, and leading to the organization of their own Board of Education. From that time until this, slow and almost imperceptible changes have been taking place in our relations to that part of the Presbyterian Church which still remained in union with us, and which is known as the New School body. More recently, action has been taken by this New School body, which renders our relations still more indefinite and equivocal. A Board of Education, with its Secretary, has been instituted by the New School General Assembly, yet leaving the old organizations which were formed to do the work of the American Education Society, still standing on the field. It is claimed, indeed, that the new action of the General Assembly is not designed to interfere with the old organizations; but, on the other hand, to recognize them and harmonize with them. But it is obvious that this state of things, upon the field of the New School Presbyterian Church, can not long continue. 'A kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation.' Every thing is undoubtedly tending slowly, but surely, towards a complete separation between the Presbyterians and Congregationalists, in this work of training men for the ministry. *And in the present state of the country, the two denominations can, without doubt, work with more vigor, toward the one great, common end—the promotion of the Redeemer's kingdom—by separate action. It is therefore better, probably, that the transition-period should be as brief as possible.* While the name of union, without the reality, lasts, it will impede the operations of each denomination. If the Presbyterian body will complete the work which they have so vigorously begun, and bring the whole business of ministerial education under the direction of their Board of Education, the old organizations upon their field will die out, and the day of doubt and uncertainty will be at an end.

The Philadelphia Education Society, and the Central American Education Society in New-York, have recently taken steps which, though different in themselves, seem alike to be preparatory to a general merging of their operations with those of the recently appointed Board of Education, although their action may not be intended to have this meaning. *For ourselves, so far from making any objection to this course, we think it better, all things considered, that the transfer should be complete and final. Our Board have no wish to take any step, which would look like a violent or unfriendly sundering of the old ties, while at the same time we think, in view of the present condition of affairs in the two bodies, we shall work more efficiently, if we work separately.* All hindrances and impediments will then be taken out of the way, and we shall be free to make our appeal to Congregational churches in any part of the land. As the case now stands, by the terms of union, the Congregational churches, out of New-England, do in theory belong to the field of the Central American Education Society, though as a matter of fact, they have for the most part long been neglected and left out of the account in our work. It is of great importance that these waste fields, throughout the Middle and Western States, should be tilled, and we think it will be far better done by separate action, than by any attempt longer to continue the Plan of Union. We recognize the Presbyterians as our brethren in Christ, working for the same great end as ourselves, and we take no offense, nor entertain other than the kindest feelings towards them. Matters have come where they now are through the progress of events, and the controlling providence of God, and not exactly through the design of any one man or body of men.

Theological Seminaries.

Union Theological Seminary in the City of New-York.

Faculty.

EDWARD ROBINSON, D.D., LL.D.,

Professor of Biblical Literature.

THOMAS H. SKINNER, D.D.,

Davenport Professor of Sacred Rhetoric, Pastoral Theology, and Church Government.

HENRY B. SMITH, D.D.,

Roosevelt Professor of Systematic Theology.

ROSWELL D. HITCHCOCK, D.D.,

Washburn Professor of Church History.

The whole number of alumni is four hundred and seventy-two, thirty-three of whom have died. One hundred and eight students were in attendance the past year, namely, twenty-five in the Senior class; forty in the Middle, and forty-three in the Junior. Twenty-four graduated, two of whom expect to be foreign missionaries. The state of religious feeling has been good, and many of the students have been active in the great revival.

The Library contains 23,000 volumes. The academic year commences on the second Wednesday of September, and closes early in May. The students have a Boarding Association in the Seminary, in which the price the past year was \$2.25. Washing costs sixty cents per dozen. Fuel need not exceed five dollars to a person. Students who need aid, receive it from educational funds. There are also opportunities in which by teaching, etc., they can do something for their support. Those who can not, can have aid in addition to the educational appropriation to the amount of half their board, so long as may be necessary. Every student is subject to a charge of ten dollars a year for the general expenses of the Seminary, but no further charge is made.

Auburn Theological Seminary, Auburn, N. Y.

Faculty.

HENRY MILLS, D.D.,

Emeritus Professor of Biblical Criticism.

EDWIN HALL, D.D.,

Richards Professor of Christian Theology.

J. B. CONDIT, D.D.,

Bellamy and Edwards Professor of Sacred Rhetoric and Pastoral Theology.

SAMUEL M. HOPKINS, D.D.,

Professor of Church History and Polity.

E. A. HUNTINGTON, D.D.,

Taylor Professor of Biblical Criticism.

Fifty-two students were present the past year; nine in the Senior class, nineteen in the Middle, and twenty-four in the Junior.

The Seminary is under the care of the Presbyteries composing the five Synods of Utica, Susquehanna, Onondaga, Geneva, and Genesee.

It is administered by a Board of Commissioners, clerical and lay, one third of which is elected annually by these Presbyteries, and a permanent Board of Trustees elected by the Commissioners. The two Boards hold their annual

meeting on the Tuesday preceding the second Thursday in May. The Seminary anniversary is held on the day following. The vacation continues until the second Wednesday in September.

Tuition and room rent are free. With the exception of a small tax (not exceeding three dollars) for repairs, and of his proportion of the expense for warming and lighting the public rooms, the student's expenses are wholly personal.

Board costs about \$2 a week. Fuel, washing, and light about \$30 a year; making an annual total of not far from \$100. Towards meeting this expense, students whose circumstances require it, are allowed from Seminary funds up to \$2 a week. Beneficiaries of the Western Education Society of New-York, receive in quarterly payments \$100 a year.

The Seminary buildings, large and commodious, are in a state of thorough repair. The students' rooms are carpeted, papered, furnished with new bedsteads and mattresses, and all other necessary articles. The recitation-rooms are also beautifully carpeted, and furnished with an arm-chair and table for each student.

The Library, containing at present about 6000 volumes, has a large proportion of standard theological works, well adapted to meet the wants of students for the ministry. A generous friend in the city of Buffalo, has recently presented to the Seminary \$3000 for the improvement of the library.

Rev. F. Starr is engaged as financial agent of the Seminary, soliciting funds for the library, scholarships, and other objects of importance to the prosperity of the institution.

A healthy state of religious feeling has pervaded the Seminary during the year. The students have, as usual, been engaged in instructing the Penitentiary convicts, and conducting prayer-meetings and Sabbath-schools in the town and vicinity, and have shared richly in the reviving influences with which the land is so signally blest.

Lane Theological Seminary, at Walnut Hills, near Cincinnati, O.

Faculty.

HENRY SMITH, D.D.,
Professor of Sacred Rhetoric and Church History.

D. HOWE ALLEN, D.D.,
Professor of Systemetic Theology.

GEORGE E. DAY,
Professor of Biblical Literature.

The number of students in attendance last year was thirty. The Library contains about 11,000 volumes. The necessary expenses of a student are very low, and opportunities for partial self-support frequently occur. Board, the heaviest part of the expenses, is furnished at one dollar and a half a week. Measures are in progress to obtain means to endow an additional professorship, erect a library building, and establish a library fund. The session commences the middle of September, and closes the second week in May.

The Blackburn Theological Seminary, at Carlinville, Illinois.

This is a new institution, founded through the labors of the late Rev. Gideon Blackburn, D.D. A building is nearly finished, and it is expected that a faculty will be appointed, and the institution be open for students, the coming fall. The endowment consists in lands obtained by Dr. Blackburn, and in the course of time it is supposed will be sufficient to meet all expenses. It is expected that a literary department will be established in connection with the Theological school.